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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Applicants : Constantine J. Tsikos et al.  
Serial No. : 09/990,585  
Filing Date : November 21, 2001  
Title of Invention : HAND-SUPPORTABLE PLANAR LASER ILLUMINATION  
AND IMAGING (PLIIM) DEVICES EMPLOYING LINEAR  
ELECTRONIC IMAGE DETECTION ARRAYS AND...  
Examiner : Thien Le  
Group Art Unit : 2876  
Attorney Docket No. : 108-151USA000

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 312(a)**

SIR:

Prior to payment of Issue Fee in the present Application, please amend the same as follows:

**AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On Page 50, amend the second, fourth, and sixth paragraphs as follows:

Another object of the present invention is to provide an optical process carried within a LED-based PLIM, wherein (1) the focusing lens focuses a reduced size image of the light emitting source of the LED towards the farthest working distance in the PLIIM-based system, and (2) the light rays associated with the reduced-sized image are transmitted through the cylindrical lens element to produce a ~~spatially-coherent~~ spatially-incoherent planar light illumination beam (PLIB).

Another object of the present invention is to provide an optical process carried within an LED-based PLIM, wherein (1) the focusing lens focuses a reduced size image of the light emitting source of the LED towards a focal point within the barrel structure, (2) the collimating lens collimates the light rays associated with the reduced size image of the light emitting source, and (3) the cylindrical lens element diverges the collimated light beam so as to produce a ~~spatially-coherent~~ spatially-incoherent planar light illumination beam ~~(PLIOB)~~ (PLIB).